



# Hendry County Sheriff's Office

## General Order 19.3

<b>TITLE:</b> Florida Blue Alert Plan	<b>SHERIFF'S APPROVAL:</b> Digital
<b>ORIGINATION DATE:</b> March 8, 2018	<b>REVISION DATE:</b> May 24, 2019
<b>RELATED REFERENCES:</b> <i>Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE)</i> <b>FLA-TAC:</b> 15.03M <b>CFA:</b> N/A	
<b>REVIEW FREQUENCY:</b> 3 YEARS	<b>DATE OF NEXT REVIEW:</b> May 24, 2022

**I. PURPOSE:** To establish agency guidelines for the use of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's (FDLE) Florida Blue Alert Plan.

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**II. SCOPE:** This order shall apply to all sheriffs' office members.

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**III. POLICY:** It is the policy of the Hendry County Sheriff's Office to correctly, expediently and effectively utilize the FDLE's Florida Blue Alert Plan (formerly known as the Law Enforcement Officer Alert Plan). This plan, a cooperative effort between FDLE, The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP), activates dynamic highway message signs to immediately broadcast important information about a suspect/vehicle involved in the injury, killing or abduction of a Hendry County Sheriff's Office deputy or other law enforcement officer in the county's jurisdiction, in order to apprehend the suspect(s) and protect the public.

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#### **IV. PROCEDURE:**

- A. **Criteria:** In order for the Florida Blue Alert Plan to be activated, certain criteria must be met. These are:
1. A law enforcement officer must have been seriously injured or killed by an offender(s), or is missing while in the line of duty, under circumstances evidencing concern for the law enforcement officer's safety.
  2. The investigation must determine that the offender(s) poses a serious risk to the public or to other law enforcement officers and that the dissemination of available information to the public may help avert further harm, or assist in the apprehension of the suspect.
  3. A detailed description of the suspect's vehicle or other means of escape, including vehicle tag or partial tag number, is available for public broadcast.

4. The Hendry County Sheriff's Office law enforcement division lieutenant or his/her designee recommends the issuance of a blue alert.

B. **Activation:** The law enforcement division commander or his/her designee shall assign an individual as agency liaison to the FDLE's Florida Fusion Center (FFC) Watch Desk. At the direction of the law enforcement division commander or his/her designee, the assigned individual shall follow the steps outlined below, and report back to the law enforcement division lieutenant or his/her designee via chain-of-command, or as directed, with all pertinent information relating to the alert:

1. Call the FDLE FFC Watch Desk at (850) 410-7645 or (800) 342-0820.
2. Provide the FDLE FFC Watch Desk on-call supervisor with all relevant information, as specified in the criteria set out in paragraph IV. A. above. The FDLE Watch Desk on-call supervisor will ensure that all criteria have been met and determine whether the blue alert should be displayed regionally or statewide, for a maximum period of six (6) hours.
3. Work with the FDLE FFC Watch Desk on-call supervisor to prepare information for public releases, including, but not limited to, suspect and/or vehicle information.
4. Update the FDLE FFC Watch Desk on-call supervisor if there is revised vehicle information, or if the broadcast area needs to be changed.

C. **Deactivation:**

1. Advise FDLE FFC Watch Desk on-call supervisor as soon as the suspect(s) has been apprehended, so he/she can cancel the blue alert.
2. Once FDLE is notified that the offender(s) have been captured, FDLE will contact the appropriate parties to cancel the alert. FHP then will notify its other offices of the cancellation.
3. Notify the law enforcement division lieutenant or his/her designee via chain-of-command that liaison responsibilities have been concluded.

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## V. GLOSSARY:

N/A

**Your electronic signature in Power DMS acknowledges you have read this policy and understand it.**